



## **PATUXENT RIVER COMMISSION**

301 W. Preston Street, Suite 1101  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-2305  
Phone: (410) 767-4500  
Fax: (410) 767-4480

Internet:

<https://planning.maryland.gov/Pages/OurWork/PaxRiverComm/PatuxentRiverCommInfo.aspx>

**John Hartline**, *Chairman*

**Christopher Perry**, *Vice Chairman*

*We, the Patuxent River Commission, envision a Patuxent River ecosystem as vital and productive in 2050 as it was in the 1950s. We therefore commit to be stewards and advocates for the Patuxent River and to lead and inspire actions to protect, enhance, and restore living resources and the natural, cultural, economic, and recreational values of the Patuxent River and its watershed.*

☀ Please call Daniel Rosen at MDP 410-767-4577 if you have any questions or comments.

### **MEETING SUMMARY**

**February 8, 2023**

**VIRTUAL MEETING**

**4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

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**Members:** John Hartline, Chair; Chris Perry, Vice-Chair; Frank Allen, Stacy Clements, John Denniston, Luis Dieguez, Mary Dolan, Jason Dubow, Solange Filoso, Kim Finch, Jennifer Greiner, Morgan Hall, Bill Hubbard, Scott Knoche, Mike Leszcz, Ron Marney, Erik Michelsen, Byron Petrauskas, Paula Proctor, Matt Rowe, Steve Shofar, Mark Symborski, John Tarr, Malcolm Taylor, Fred Tutman, Jason Van Kirk, Tiffany Wright

**Attendees:** Arno Laud, Barbara Sollner-Webb

**Staff:** Jason Dubow, Debbie Herr Cornwell, Daniel Rosen, Adam Snyder

#### **Approval of January 11, 2023 Minutes, Updates and Announcements**

The January 11, 2023 meeting minutes were approved.

Staff announced that the Town of Eagle Harbor Funding Forum, an initiative of the PRC federal assistance workgroup, will be held on March 4, 2023.

By special vote between the January and February regular meetings, the Commission voted via email to send letters of support for HB216 – Salt Applicator Certification Program – Establishment, SB225 Environment – Publicly Owned Treatment Works – PFAS Monitoring, and HB198 Wastewater Treatment Plants – Water Quality Testing and Sewage Overflow and Pipeline Breakage Notification (Environmental Accountability Act of 2023).

### **MDE Sewage Spill Database**

Arno Laud, MDE presented on MDE's sanitary sewer overflow reporting program. He noted that if a spill occurs between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., calls are received by MDE. Outside of regular business hours, calls are received by the Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM).

MDE maintains the online "Maryland Reported Sewer Overflow Database" that is current through October 2022. They are in the process of developing a sewer overflow reporting tool (SORT) where treatment plant owners/operators can report spills. By regulation, spills must be reported within 24 hours and written notification must be submitted to MDE within 5 days. Internal training on the SORT is ongoing through March 2023 and then will begin to be rolled out to owners and operators. Complete live access is anticipated by 2024. It was also noted that addressing staffing needs across all programs and enforcement are a priority for the new administration.

### **2023 PRC Annual Action Plan – review/edit draft**

Jason Dubow presented the updated draft annual action plan. John Hartline noted that funding for the creation and maintenance of the report card should be a short-term action. Fred Tutman noted that the Patuxent Riverkeeper has grant funding to support river clean ups. The annual action plan could include identifying sites for clean ups.

Other communities could benefit from the Eagle Harbor funding assistance work. There is potential to create a "waiting" short list. For example, the long-term workgroup could identify other communities that are interested in assistance. A new action item was requested to identify climate change impacts to natural and living resources within the Patuxent River watershed; for example, invasive species.

The draft annual action plan will be updated and brought back to the Commission to make final comments. It is anticipated that the annual action plan will be approved at the first televised meeting of the PRC, possibly in May.

### **2023 General Assembly – Bills of Interest**

Dan Rosen provided an update on pending legislation of interest to the Commission. Staff will check hearing schedules and provide information to John Hartline to determine if there is time to distribute pending legislation to the Commission for comment and official testimony submission to the legislature prior to scheduled bill hearings.

### **Open Floor**

The Commission revisited the opportunity to televise one or two meetings a year. Fred Tutman offered to investigate the feasibility and he will follow up with Mike Leszcz and Tiffany Wright regarding the availability of facilities at the City of Laurel and the City of Bowie, respectively.

Chris Perry noted that the Commission hasn't held a recent field trip and offered to provide a tour of the Magruder's Ferry Landing living shoreline project. John Hartline noted that the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area Act was passed by Congress and was signed into law by President Biden.